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A LETTER

FROM THE

COUNTESS OF NITHSDALE,

&c.

1059

1277

WITH REMARKS

BY

SHEFFIELD GRACE, Esq. F.S.A.

Splendide mendax.—HOR.

LONDON:

MDCCCXXVII.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE
MARY,
MARCHIONESS OF CHANDOS,

WHOSE NAME AND DISPOSITION
ASSOCIATE WITH WHATEVER IS
VIRTUOUS, GENEROUS, OR CHIVALROUS,
IN SENTIMENT OR EXPLOIT,
THE FOLLOWING LITTLE NARRATIVE,
ILLUSTRATIVE OF CONJUGAL HEROISM,
IS INSCRIBED,
WITH FEELINGS OF UNAFFECTED RESPECT, BY

SHEFFIELD GRACE.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

THE following unpublished letter* by the Countess of Nithsdale is interesting in several points of view. One of the chief, arises from the charming picture it displays of conjugal affection: for it contains a plain statement illustrative of that self-devotion which women often evince when called upon to act in the cause of their husbands or of their children. Traits similar in kind, although different in degree, are every day forcing themselves on our attention. An escape is, I think, mentioned by Herodotus, conducted nearly in the same manner as that which forms the chief subject of this letter; and Lavalette's affair is still fresh in every body's memory. The causes of Lord Nithsdale's imprisonment in the Tower of London, are contained in History, and in the State Trials. I shall not therefore recapitulate them here. The particulars of his escape, told with so much sim-

* Though this interesting letter has hitherto escaped publication in this publishing age, numerous copies of it in MS. appear to be extant. The Lord Stowell, the Bishop of St. Asaph (Dr. Luxmore), the Right Hon. Charles Bathurst, of Lydney Park, and Mr. Charles Butler, of Lincoln's Inn, informed me that they have perused it in that state. I saw at Cossey a transcript of it, from the pen of the accomplished and admired Lady Stafford; and Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Ponsonby, of Llangollen Vale, told me that they likewise possess a copy, together with part of the female apparel in which Lord Nithsdale effected his escape. My friend, Mr. John Gage, brother of Sir Thomas Gage, of Hengrave, has also a copy; and I understand that another is to be found among the many curious and valuable Clumber MSS. belonging to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. The exemplary virtues of Lady Nithsdale, as a wife and as a mother, must command the admiration of the wise and the good; and of these, none assuredly can, from a high sense of honor, and generous private feelings, be more capable of appreciating her worth than the noble representative of the truly ancient and illustrious house of Clinton.

plicity, and with such a natural description of the feelings which agitated his Countess, cannot fail to affect every sensitive mind. Without the least pretence to fine writing, Lady Nithsdale describes, in the plainest manner, her own conduct, and the sensations that accompanied it on a very trying occasion, and without studying to gain the sympathies of the reader, she does so in every line. Her own pen proves how much more powerful is simple and natural language than the trickery of the rhetorician, who endeavours to excite emotions to which his own bosom is a stranger. With the latter, the reader of taste can have no other sympathy than that of indifference; but on perusing Lady Nithsdale's letter, it will be difficult to find the affectionate wife, or even any ordinary person, who does not share her fears and anxieties, and participate in her triumph over the most appalling difficulties.

The unchivalrous character of George I. is not a little conspicuous in this letter. Whatever may be the sacrifices of feeling that the politician must at times make to the stability of Government, it is not easy to conceive a being so rugged as to spurn a high-born and lovely woman, who, decked with a crown of imperishable virtue herself, condescends even to implore the mercy of a mere thing of velvet and ermine. Yet such was the king. The errors of Lord Nithsdale (if so they may be called) originated in an honourable attachment to the religion of his ancestors, coupled with a devotedness to a family, which, in most instances, lost the loyalty of its subjects with the means of bestowing personal benefits. But surely the faults of Lord Nithsdale attached not to his Countess, for nothing can be more distinct than the duties of husband and wife; and it is scarcely possible to suppose the most enthusiastic Whig in principle to do otherwise than admire the conduct of Lady Nithsdale.

If we here contemplate a man in the rich possession of a wife, whose affections were neither to be chilled by adversity, nor paralyzed by the dread of personal sufferings, we may also indulge a confident belief that the virtues of so enviable a being were not unworthy of this supremest of earthly blessings. As honor and affection so strikingly influenced their respective actions, such qualities, doubtless, likewise formed the basis of their union; and the mother* of this high-minded and exemplary woman must indeed have been widely opposed in sentiments to that mother whose sordid views, in another narrative from real life,† induced an only daughter to abjure her plighted faith, scarcely twelve hours after explicitly sanctioning distinct acknowledgments of mutual attachment made on the preceding day, and suggested by herself alone.

It is gratifying to reflect that Lady Nithsdale's virtuous achievements were rewarded, not only by possessing the precious and unextinguishable solace of an approving conscience, that "one thing *truly* needful" to real happiness, even in this life, but also by enjoying thirty-three additional years of honorable existence and domestic felicity. She died at Rome in 1749, where Lord Nithsdale also died in 1744.

I cannot here forbear remarking, how forcibly the details in the following letter evince the vast importance of original documents. Lord Nithsdale's escape was one of the most popular and universally interesting occurrences of the day. The particulars were well known in every courtly circle throughout Europe, and as the Maxwell and Herbert families were nearly connected by blood with the most illustrious houses in these countries, we may naturally suppose that personal feelings were not a little excited on the occasion. But even this extreme degree of ephemeral notoriety

* See Note *, page 11.

† See Appendix.

has proved no security against subsequent misrepresentation. All historians necessarily notice the prominent part which this spirited and virtuous Nobleman took in the Scottish transactions of 1715. Smollet, in conclusion, states, that he "made his escape in woman's apparel, furnished and conveyed to him by his own *mother*." And most writers inform us, that on hearing of it, the king, so far from manifesting dissatisfaction, even expressed a generous wish that the other prisoners had escaped in a similar manner. The accuracy of these assertions is best met by the uncontrovertible evidence of the following original document. Such a document renders all comment superfluous. I will not therefore dwell longer upon it, and in now offering it to the reader, I have merely to inform him that I met the original among a highly interesting collection of MSS. at Wardour Castle, while on a visit to my noble and accomplished friend Lord Arundel.* The copy from which this is printed, is transcribed from one taken direct from the original letter, and in the perfect correctness of that copy, I repose implicit reliance. It only remains for me to add, that the lively interest it created in the enlightened and estimable circles of Stowe, Bowood, Westdean, Holkam, and Stoneleigh,† and the very numerous, and too frequently the fruitless, applications

* Everard Arundel tenth Lord Arundel of Wardour, and a Count of the sacred Roman Empire, married Mary only sister of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos and of Lord Nugent. All who are honoured by the friendship of this noble Peer well know, that while elegant acquirements and intrinsic worth are appreciated, he must be both respected and beloved. Henry the sixth Lord Arundel, having, in 1726, married Anne, daughter of William Herbert second Marquis of Powis, and niece of Lady Nithsdale and of Lady Lucy Herbert, became possessed of this letter and of other original MSS. now deposited among the family evidences of the house of Arundel.

† The seats of the Duke of Buckingham & Chandos, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Lord Selsey, Thos. W. Coke, Esq. and Chandos Leigh, Esq.

which have been made for its perusal, induced me to get a limited number of copies privately printed, solely for voluntary distribution. I have been also led by the circumstance of the marriage of *this* Lord and Lady Nithsdale's great grandson, William Middelton, Esq. of Middelton and of Stockeld Park, in the County of York, with my paternal aunt, Clara Louisa Grace, to add a few genealogical memoranda of the houses of Maxwell and Herbert,* for which I am indebted to the collections of

* Winifred HERBERT Countess of Nithsdale was the youngest daughter of William Duke and Marquis of Powis, who was descended from the same line of ancestry as the Earls of Pembroke, Montgomery, Torrington, and Caernarvon, and the Barons Herbert of Cherbury. The first Lord Powis was the grandson of the first Earl of Pembroke, and by the *direct* marriages of this branch, and of its *immediate* progenitors, Lady Nithsdale was nearly allied to the noble houses of Beaufort, Sefton, Montague, Seaforth, Carrington, Waldegrave, Shrewsbury, Craven, Castlemain, Northumberland, Parr of Kendal, Berkeley, Stanley, Kent, Ferrers of Chartley, and Morley.

William MAXWELL fifth Earl of Nithsdale, Lord Maxwell of Caerlaverock, Lord Eskdale, Carlyle, and Herries of Terregles, and hereditary Sheriff of Kirkcudbright, was head of one of the most ancient and powerful families in Scotland. The Earls of Dirleton and Farnham and the Barons Herries of Terregles were descended from younger branches. By the *direct* marriages of the line of Nithsdale he was nearly allied to the noble houses of Traquair, Douglas, Angus, Huntley, Selkirk, Hamilton, Kenmure, Gourie, Lothian, Queensbury, Moreton, Herries, Annandale, Galloway, Forrester, Kirkcudbright, Cassils, and Bellew. Willielmina Maxwell, who was of this illustrious family, married John Campbell Lord Glenorchy, son of John third Earl of Breadalbane, on whose death the peerage of Breadalbane devolved upon John the fourth Earl, whose second daughter, Lady Mary Campbell Marchioness of Chandos, married, in 1819, Richard Plantagenet Grenville, Marquis of Chandos, only son of Richard Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G., and of Anna Eliza daughter and sole heir of James Brydges third and last Duke of Chandos, by his second wife Anna Eliza, sister of Sir Richard Gamon, Bart., M.P. for Winchester, and daughter of Richard Gamon, Esq. and of Elizabeth only child of John Grace, of the Grange, Esq.

my talented and amiable friend Robert Benson, of Salisbury, Esq. with whose interesting and beautifully illustrated "Sketches of Corsica," most readers of taste are acquainted.

After contemplating the actions of renowned personages, the mind looks by an easy and natural transition for some account of their families. The porcelain vase requires a superior clay to that which forms the tile or brick-bat ; and Lady Nithsdale's virtues were probably owing to the mould of true mental nobility in which they were cast by the example and precepts of her illustrious progenitors.

SHEFFIELD GRACE.

London,
January 27, 1827.

A Letter from Winifred Herbert Countess of Nithsdale to her sister, the Lady Lucy Herbert, Abbess of the English Augustine Nuns, at Bruges, containing a circumstantial account of the escape of her husband, William Maxwell fifth Earl of Nithsdale, from the Tower of London, on Friday, the 23d of February, 1716.

“DEAR SISTER,

MY lord's escape is now such an old story that I have almost forgotten it: but since you desire me to give you a circumstantial account of it, I will endeavour to recal it to my memory, and be as exact in the narration as I possibly can; for I owe you too many obligations to refuse you any thing that lies in my power to do. I think I owe myself the justice to set out with the motives which influenced me to undertake so hazardous an attempt, which I despaired of thoroughly accomplishing, foreseeing a thousand obstacles, which never could be surmounted but by the most particular interposition of Divine Providence.* I confided in Almighty God, and trusted that he would not abandon me even when all human succours failed me.

* This strong minded and admirable woman appears to have been as exemplary for unfeigned piety as she was for the uncompromising fulfilment of her duties as a wife and a mother. Her faith was at once zealous and rational. She “confided,” she says, “to Almighty God, and trusted that he would not abandon her, even when all human succours failed,” but at the same time she availed herself of every suitable means she could command to accomplish her pious undertaking. Other trying circumstances in the progress of this fearful business twice again call forth similar sentiments. The truest faith and humblest dependance on the Divine Will are quite consistent with our own most strenuous exertions, whether directed

I first came to London upon hearing that my lord was committed to the Tower.* I was at the same time informed that he had expressed the greatest anxiety to see me, having, as he afterwards told me, nobody to console him till I came. I rode to Newcastle, and from thence took the stage to York. When I arrived there the snow was so deep that the stage could not set out for London. The season was so severe and the roads so extremely bad, that the post itself was stopped. However, I took horses and rode to London, though the snow was generally above the horses girths, and arrived safe without any accident. On my arrival I went

to the performance of a duty, or to the attainment of a blessing. God, who knows the workings of the human heart with respect to the latter, has, in the warnings of conscience, given us an unerring guide in the choice of means; and fallacious indeed are the religious views of that person, who, through an intentional disregard of acknowledged obligations of morality and honour, expects ever to possess real and abiding happiness.

* Lord Nithsdale was brought prisoner to London on the 9th of January, 1715-16, and was condemned to be beheaded on the 24th of the following month, but escaped, as described in this letter, on the preceding evening. The Scotch Noblemen whose Peerages were attainted for their adherence on this occasion to the house of Stuart were, William Murray Marquess of Tullehardine, George Keith ninth Earl Marshal and Lord High Marshal of Scotland, John Erskine tenth Earl of Mar, William Maxwell fifth Earl of Nithsdale, George Seton fourth Earl of Winton, James Levingston fifth Earl of Linlithgow and Callender, James Drummond fourth Earl of Perth, William Mackenzie fifth Earl of Seaforth, James Carnegie fifth Earl of Southesk, James Ogilvy fourth Earl of Airly, Robert Dalziel sixth Earl of Carnwath, James Maul fourth Earl of Panmure, William Gordon sixth Viscount Kenmure, William Levingston second Viscount Kilsyth, John Sinclair eighth Lord Sinclair, Arthur Elphingston sixth Lord Balmerino, Robert Balfour fifth Lord Burleigh, James Butler third Lord Dingwall and Duke of Ormonde in England, Kenneth Sutherland third Lord Duffus, and William Nairn second Lord Nairn. In England also the Peerages were attainted of James Butler second Duke of Ormonde, Henry Ratcliff third Earl of Derwentwater, Henry St. John first Viscount Bolingbroke, and William Widdrington fourth lord Widdrington.

immediately to make what interest I could among those who were in place. No one gave me any hopes, but they all to the contrary assured me that, although some of the prisoners were to be pardoned, yet my lord would certainly not be of the number. When I enquired into the reason of this distinction, I could obtain no other answer than that they would not flatter me. But I soon perceived the reasons which they declined alleging to me. A Roman Catholic upon the frontiers of Scotland who headed a very considerable party; a man whose family had always signalized itself by its loyalty to the royal house of Stuart, and who was the only support of the Catholics against the inveteracy of the Whigs, who were very numerous in that part of Scotland, would become an agreeable sacrifice to the opposite party. They still retained a lively remembrance of his grandfather,* who defended his own castle

* The grandfather of Lord Nithsdale was John Maxwell seventh Lord Herries of Terregles, who succeeded to the Earldom of Nithsdale as third Earl on the death of his cousin Robert the second Earl, in 1667. But the gallant defender of Caerlaverock was Robert the first Earl, as appears by "the articles of capitulation past betwixt Robert Earl of Nithsdale and Lieutenant-Colonel John Home, at the castle of Caerlaverock, the 26th day of September, 1640." This Robert first Earl of Nithsdale died in 1644. The magnificent and interesting ruins of this celebrated castle stands nine miles from Dumfries on the North shore of the Solway Frith, between the confluence of the rivers Nith and Locher. It was at an early period the chief seat of the powerful family of Maxwell. Eugin Maxwell Lord of Karlaverok is in the list of Scottish chieftains, who accompanied King Malcolm to the siege of Alnwick, in 1097; and it continued in this noble house till, on the death of John sixth and last Earl of Nithsdale, in 1776, it passed, with his only daughter and heiress Lady Winifred Maxwell, in marriage to William Haggerston Constable, Esq. The form and situation of this truly baronial structure are particularly described in an ancient heraldic French poem, reciting the names and armorial bearings of the knights and barons who, in 1300, accompanied King Edward I. in his expedition to Scotland by the Western Marches, of which the Lord

of Caerlaverock to the last extremity, and surrendered it up only at the express command of his royal master.

Maxwell was Warden, when it was attacked and taken. The original is preserved in the British Museum, and is thus translated by Grose:—

“Karlaverok was a castle so strong that it did not fear a siege, therefore, on the King’s arrival, it refused to surrender; it being well furnished against sudden attempts, with soldiers, engines, and provision. Its figure was like that of a shield,* for it had only three sides, with a tower on each angle, one of them a jumellated or double one, so high, so long, and so spacious, that under it was the gate, with a turning or drawbridge, well made and strong, with a sufficiency of other defences. There were also good walls and deep moats filled to the brim with water. And it is my opinion, no one will ever see a castle more beautifully situated; for at one view one might behold towards the west the Irish sea, towards the north a delightful country, encompassed by an arm of the sea, so that no creature born could approach it on two sides, without putting himself in danger from the sea; nor was it an easy matter towards the south, it being, as by the sea on the other side, there encircled by the river, woods, bogs, and trenches; wherefore the army was obliged to attack it on the east, where there was a mount.”

The castle, after having been battered by all the warlike machines then in use, at length surrendered, when the remainder of the garrison, being only sixty in number, were, on account of their gallant defence, taken into the King’s favour, and were not only pardoned and released, ransom free, but to each of them was given a new garment.

Some time after its surrender it was retaken by the Scotch, and was in the possession of Sir Eustace Maxwell, a steady friend to King Robert Bruce. He held it against the English for many weeks, and at last obliged them to raise the siege; but lest it should afterwards fall into the hands of the enemies, he himself demolished all the fortifications of it; for which generous action King Robert Bruce nobly rewarded him with grants of several lands, *pro fractione et prostratione Castri de Carlaverok, &c.* He also remitted him and his heirs for ever, the sum of ten pounds sterling, which was payable to the Crown yearly out of the lands of Caerlaverock.

* The ancient shields were triangular. It may not perhaps be generally known, that the reason they are commonly called “heater” shields, originated in their resemblance to the heaters used by women in ironing linen.

Now having his grandson in their power, they were determined not to let him escape from their hands.

This castle, however, seems to have been again fortified, for in the year 1355, it was taken by Roger Kirkpatrick, and, as Major says, levelled with the ground. Probably it was never more repaired, but its materials employed to erect a new building. The frequent sieges and dismantlings it had undergone, might, in all likelihood, have injured its foundations.

The precise time when the new castle was built is not ascertained; but it must have been *before* the year 1425, in the reign of James I., from the appellation of Murdoc's Tower, being given to the great round tower on the south-west angle, which it obtained from the circumstance of Murdoc, Duke of Albany, being confined in it that year: and this is further corroborated from the circumstance of the Lord Robert Maxwell, who was slain at the battle of Bannockbourn in 1448, being called 'the compleator of the battling of Carlaverock.'

This noble castle again experienced the miseries of war, being, according to Camden in his annals, in the month of August, 1570, ruined by the Earl of Sussex, who was sent with an English army to support King James VI. after the murder of the Regent. The same author, in his *Britannia*, written about 1607, calls it a weak house of the Barons of Maxwell, whence it is probable that only the fortifications of this castle were demolished by Sussex; or, that if the whole was destroyed, only the mansion was rebuilt.

The fortifications of this place were, it is said, once more reinstated in 1638, by Robert Maxwell the eighth Lord Maxwell of Caerlaverock, who was created Earl of Nithsdale in 1620. During the troubles under Charles I. its illustrious and opulent owner most nobly supported the cause of the house of Stuart, in which he expended nearly the whole of his princely fortune: nor did he lay down his arms till, in 1640, he received the King's letters, directing and authorizing him to deliver up his castles of Caerlaverock and Thrieve on the best conditions he could obtain. In these castles the Earl maintained considerable garrisons, solely at his own expense. That of Caerlaverock, on its surrender, exceeded an hundred; and that of Thrieve eighty men, besides officers and attendants. The ordnance, arms, ammunition, clothing, and victuals, were also provided at his cost.

This castle, like the old one, is triangular, with a tower on each angle, and surrounded by a vast wet ditch. The entrance is through a gate on the northernmost angle, machicollated and flanked by two circular towers. Over the arch of the gate is the crest

Upon this I formed the resolution to attempt his escape, but opened my intention to nobody but my dear Evans.* In order to concert measures, I strongly solicited to be permitted to see my lord, which they refused to grant me, unless I would remain confined

of the Maxwells, with the date of the last repairs; and this motto, "I bid ye fair." The residence of the family was on the east side, which measures 223 feet. It is most elegantly built, in the style of James VI. The height does not exceed three stories, and the doors and window-cases are handsomely adorned with sculpture. Over those on the ground-floor are the coats of arms and initials of the Maxwells, and the different branches of that noble family. Representations of legendary tales are placed over the windows of the second floor, and fables from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* are over those of the third. In the front is a handsome door-case leading to the great hall, which is 91 feet by 36.

In addition to the circumstances already noticed, relating to the siege of this castle by King Edward I., it may be added, from the authority of the wardrobe account of the 28th of that King, published by the Society of Antiquaries, that he was here in the months of July, August, and November, 1300. But a collection of every recorded particular of any importance respecting Caerlaverock at this early period has been recently formed by Mr Harris Nicolas, whose interesting *Memoirs of Lady Jane Grey, and Life of Secretary Davison*, and whose eminently useful work, entitled "*Notitia Historica*," containing Tables, Calendars, &c. &c. are well known to the literary world. The investigating mind of this gentleman is deeply imbued with a knowledge of personal and heraldic antiquities; and the MS. alluded to in the British Museum "*Le seige de Kerlaverok*," or as it is more commonly called "the Roll of Caerlaverock," appeared to him so very curious that he has determined on communicating it to the world. He informs me that this publication will be accompanied by a new translation, and engravings of all the banners, together with an historical and topographical account of the castle of Caerlaverock, and memoirs of each knight recorded to have been present at the siege.

* Mrs. Evans appears to have been her own maid, and a deservedly confidential domestic, who we may suppose accompanied Lady Winifred Herbert from Wales, (of which country her name implies her to have been a native,) when she married the Earl of Nithsdale, and sett'ed in Scotland.

with him in the Tower. This I would not submit to, and alleged for excuse, that my health would not permit me to undergo the confinement. The real reason of my refusal was, not to put it out of my power to accomplish my designs; however, by bribing the guards, I often contrived to see my lord, till the day upon which the prisoners were condemned. After that, for the last week we were allowed to see and take our leave of them. By the assistance of Evans, I had prepared every thing necessary to disguise my lord, but had the utmost difficulty to prevail upon him to make use of them. However, I at length succeeded by the help of Almighty God. On the 22d of February, which fell on a Thursday, our general Petition was presented to the House of Lords, the purport of which was, to interest the lords to intercede with his Majesty to pardon the prisoners. We were however disappointed, the day before the petition was to be presented, the Duke of St. Alban's,* who had promised my Lady Derwentwater† to present it, when it came to the point, failed in his word. However, as she was the only English Countess concerned, it was incumbent on her to have it presented.

* Charles Beauclerk first Duke of St. Alban's, K.G., son of Charles II. and of Mrs. Eleanor Gwin, married Diaua eldest daughter and coheir of Aubrey de Vere twentieth and last Earl of Oxford, he was born in 1670, and died in 1726.

† James Ratcliff third Earl of Derwentwater having combined with other noble adherents of the royal house of Stuart, in a fruitless attempt to restore the son of King James II. to the throne of his ancestors, was taken prisoner, tried by his Peers, found guilty, and beheaded on the 24th of February, 1715-16. He married Anna Maria eldest daughter of Sir John Webbe of Oldstock, Co. Wilts, and of Heythrop, Co. Gloucester, Bart. by Barbara second daughter and coheir of John first Lord Bellasyse of Worlaby. Sir John Webbe's other daughters were Mary, married to James first Earl of Waldegrave; Barbara, to Anthony sixth Viscount Montague; and Winifred, to Sir Edward Hales, of Woodchurch, in Kent, Bart.

We had but one day left before the execution, and the Duke still promised to present the petition, but, for fear he should fail, I engaged the Duke of Montrose,* to secure its being done by one or the other. I then went in company with most of the ladies of quality then in town to solicit the interest of the lords as they were going to the house. They all behaved to me with great civility, but particularly the Earl of Pembroke,†

* James Graham first Duke and fourth Marquis of Montrose, who was a near relative of Lord Nithsdale's, died January 7, 1741-2, having married Christian daughter of David Carnegie third Earl of Northesk.

† Thomas Herbert eighth Earl of Pembroke and fifth Earl of Montgomery, K.G., ob. 22d of January, 1732-3. Among the branches of this family may be also numbered the Earls of Torrington and Caernarvon, and the Lords Herberts of Cherbury, as well as William Herbert, Duke, Marquis, Earl, and Baron of Powis and Viscount Montgomery, who married Elizabeth daughter of Edward Somerset second Marquis of Worcester, and sister of Henry Somerset first Duke of Beaufort, K.G., whose second daughter Mary married James Butler second Duke of Ormonde, K.G. attainted in 1716. By this marriage the Duke of Powis had issue an only son William, who succeeded him as second Marquis of Powis, and five daughters, viz. Mary wife first of Richard eldest son of Caryl Molyneux third Viscount Molyneux, great grandfather of Charles first Earl of Sefton, and 2dly of Francis Browne fourth Viscount Montague. 2d. Frances wife of Kenneth Mackenzie fourth Earl of Seaforth, father of William the fifth Earl of Seaforth, attainted in 1716. 3d. Anne second wife of Francis Smith second Viscount Carrington. 4th. Lucy Abbess of the English Augustine Nuns at Bruges, *to whom this letter is addressed.* 5th. Winifred wife of William Maxwell fifth Earl of Nithsdale, and *the writer of this letter.* William Herbert third Marquis of Powis dying unmarried in 1748, the Marquisate of Powis became extinct, but his brother Lord Edward Herbert left an only child, Barbara the wife of Henry Arthur Herbert of Dolgeiog and Oakley Park, who was created Earl of Powis in 1748. By the death, in 1801, of this Earl's only son George Herbert second Earl of Powis, who never married, the title of Powis became again extinct, but his daughter and eventual sole heir Lady Henrietta Antonia Herbert becoming the wife of

who, though he desired me not to speak to him, yet he promised to employ his interest in my favour, and honourably kept his word, for he spoke very strongly in our behalf. The subject of the debate was, whether the king had the power to pardon those who had been condemned by Parliament; and it was chiefly owing to Lord Pembroke's speech that it was carried in the affirmative. However, one of the lords stood up, and said that the house could only intercede for those of the prisoners who should approve themselves worthy of their intercession, but not for all them indiscriminately. This salvo quite blasted all my hopes, for I was assured that it was aimed at the exclusion of those who should refuse to subscribe to the petition, which was a thing I knew my lord would never submit to; nor, in fact, could I wish to preserve his life on those terms. As the motion had passed generally, I thought I could draw from it some advantage in favor of my design. Accordingly, I immediately left the House of Lords and hastened to the Tower, where, affecting an air of joy and satisfaction, I told the guards I passed by, that I came to bring joyful tidings to the prisoners; I desired them to lay aside their fears, for the petition had passed the house in their favor. I then gave them some money to drink to the Lords and his Majesty,

Edward Clive second Lord Clive, the honours of this illustrious branch of the noble and truly ancient house of Herbert were once more revived by his elevation to the Earldom of Powis in 1804. Lord and Lady Powis have issue, Edward Viscount Clive married to Lucy daughter of James Graham third Duke of Montrose; Robert Henry Clive married to Harriet daughter of Other Hickman Windsor fifth Earl of Plymouth; Lady Harriet Antonia Clive wife of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn of Wynnstay, Co. Denbigh, Bart. son and heir of Sir Watkin W. Wynn and of Charlotte Grenville, sister of the late Marquis of Buckingham, and aunt to the present Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, K.G.; Lady Charlotte Florentia Clive wife of Hugh Percy third Duke of Northumberland, K.G.

though it was but trifling, for I thought if I were too liberal on the occasion, they might suspect my designs, and that giving them something would gain their good will and services for the next day, which was the eve of execution. The next morning I could not go to the Tower, having so many things upon my hands to put in readiness; but in the evening, when all was ready, I sent for Mrs. Mills with whom I lodged, and acquainted her with my design of attempting my lord's escape, as there was no prospect of his being pardoned, and that this was the last night before the execution. I told her that I had every thing in readiness, and that I trusted she would not refuse to accompany me, that my lord might pass for her. I pressed her to come immediately as we had no time to lose. At the same time I sent to Mrs. Morgan, then usually known by the name of Hilton, to whose acquaintance my dear Evans had introduced me, which I look upon as a very singular happiness. I immediately communicated my resolutions to her. She was of a very tall slender make, so I begged her to put under her own riding-hood one that I had prepared for Mrs. Mills, as she was to lend hers to my lord, that in coming out he might be taken for her. Mrs. Mills was then with child, so that she was not only of the same height, but nearly of the same size as my lord. When we were in the coach, I never ceased talking, that they might have no leisure to reflect. Their surprise and astonishment when I first opened my design to them had made them consent, without ever thinking of the consequences. On our arrival at the Tower, the first I introduced was Mrs. Morgan, (for I was only allowed to take in one at a time,) she brought in the cloaths that were to serve Mrs. Mills when she left her own behind her. When Mrs. Morgan had taken off what she had brought for my purpose, I conducted her back to the staircase,

and in going, I begged her to send me my maid to dress me, that I was afraid of being too late to present my last petition that night if she did not come immediately. I dispatched her safe, and went partly down stairs to meet Mrs. Mills, who had the precaution to hold her handkerchief to her face, as is natural for a woman to do, when she is going to take her last farewell of a friend on the eve of his execution. I had, indeed, desired her to do so, that my lord might go out in the same manner. Her eyebrows were rather inclined to be sandy, and my lord's were very dark and very thick; however, I had prepared some paint of the colour of her's to disguise his with; I also brought an artificial head-dress of the same coloured hair as her's, and I painted his face with white and his cheeks with rouge, to hide his long beard which he had not time to shave. All this provision I had before left in the Tower. The poor guards, whom my slight liberality the day before had endeared me to, let me go quietly out with my company, and were not so strictly on the watch as they usually had been, and the more so, as they were persuaded, from what I had told them the day before, that the prisoners would obtain their pardon. I made Mrs. Mills take off her own hood and put on that which I had brought for her; I then took her by the hand and led her out of my lord's chamber, and in passing through the next room, in which were several people, with all concern imaginable, I said, "My dear Mrs. Catharine, go in all haste and send me my waiting-maid, she certainly cannot reflect how late it is; I am to present my petition to-night, and if I let slip this opportunity I am undone, for to-morrow will be too late; hasten her as much as possible, for I shall be on thorns till she comes." Every body in the room, who were chiefly the guards' wives and daughters, seemed to compassionate me exceedingly, and the sentinel

officially opened me the door. When I had seen her safe out I returned to my lord, and finished dressing him. I had taken care that Mrs. Mills did not go out crying, as she came in, that my lord might better pass for the lady who came in crying and afflicted, and the more so, because he had the same dress which she wore. When I had almost finished dressing my lord in all my petticoats except one, I perceived it was growing dark, and was afraid that the light of the candles might betray us, so I resolved to set off. I went out leading him by the hand, whilst he held his handkerchief to his eyes. I spoke to him in the most piteous and afflicted tone of voice, bewailing bitterly the negligence of Evans, who had ruined me by her delay. Then said I, "My dear Mrs. Betty, for the love of God run quickly, and bring her with you; you know my lodging, and if you ever made dispatch in your life, do it at present; I am almost distracted with this disappointment." The guards opened the door, and I went down stairs with him, still conjuring him to make all possible dispatch. As soon as he had cleared the door I made him walk before me, for fear the sentinel should take notice of his walk; but I still continued to press him to make all the dispatch he possibly could. At the bottom of the stairs I met my dear Evans, into whose hands I confided him. I had before engaged Mr. Mills to be in readiness before the Tower, to conduct him to some place of safety, in case we succeeded. He looked upon the affair as so very improbable to succeed, that his astonishment when he saw us, threw him into such a consternation that he was almost out of himself; which Evans perceiving, with the greatest presence of mind, without telling him any thing lest he should mistrust them, conducted him to some of her own friends on whom she could rely, and so secured him, without which, we

should have been undone. When she had conducted him and left him with them, she returned to Mr. Mills, who by this time had recovered himself from his astonishment. They went home together, and having found a place of security they conducted him to it. In the mean time, as I had pretended to have sent the young lady on a message, I was obliged to return up stairs, and go back to my lord's room in the same feigned anxiety of being too late, so that every body seemed sincerely to sympathize in my distress. When I was in the room, I talked as if he had been really present: I answered my own questions in my lord's voice as nearly as I could imitate it; I walked up and down as if we were conversing together, till I thought they had time enough thoroughly to clear themselves of the guards. I then thought proper to make off also. I opened the door, and stood half in it that those in the outward chamber might hear what I said, but held it so close that they could not look in. I bade my lord formal farewell for the night, and added, that something more than usual must have happened to make Evans negligent on this important occasion, who had always been so punctual in the smallest trifles; that I saw no other remedy but to go in person: that if the Tower was still open, when I had finished my business, I would return that night; but that he might be assured I would be with him as early in the morning as I could gain admittance into the Tower, and I flattered myself I should bring more favourable news. Then, before I shut the door, I pulled through the string of the latch, so that it could only be opened in the inside. I then shut it with some degree of force, that I might be sure of its being well shut. I said to the servant as I passed by (who was ignorant of the whole transaction) that he need not carry in candles to his master, till my lord sent for them, as he desired to finish some prayers

first. I went down stairs and called a coach, as there were several on the stand, and drove home to my own lodgings, where poor Mr. M'Kenzie had been waiting to carry the petition, in case my attempt had failed. I told him there was no need of any petition, as my lord was safe out of the Tower, and out of the hands of his enemies as I supposed, but that I did not know where he was. I discharged the coach and sent for a sedan chair, and went to the Duchess of Buccleugh,* who expected me about that time, as I had begged of

* Francis Scott Earl of Dalkeith, grandson of James Crofts Duke of Monmouth and Buccleugh, who was son of Charles II. and of Mrs. Lucy Walters, succeeded in 1732 to the Dukedom of Buccleugh on the death of his grandmother Anne Scott Duchess of Buccleugh, daughter and sole heir to Francis Scott second Earl of Buccleugh. He married Jane sister of Charles Douglas Duke of Queensbury and Dover (who was first cousin to the Earl of Nithsdale), and died in 1751. Henry Scott second son of James Duke of Monmouth and Buccleugh was created Earl of Deloraine, and by his second wife, Mary Howard, annt to John fifteenth Earl of Suffolk and eighth Earl of Berkshire, had issue Lady Georgiana Caroline Scott, married in 1747 to James Peachey first Lord Selsey. By the death of Henry the fourth Earl in 1807, S.P., the line and Peerage of Deloraine is now represented by Henry John Peachey third and present Lord Selsey, who, in 1817, married Anna Maria Louisa, youngest daughter of Frederic Irby second Lord Boston. Lord Deloraine's other daughter Lady Henrietta, who married Nicholas Boyce, Esq. died in 1825, S.P. and as her great grandfather K. Charles II. died in 1685, the extraordinary space of 140 years intervened between their respective deaths. I may here mention as another and more remarkable instance of an extended living link of connection with remote periods, that the Right Hon. Charles Bathurst, of Lydney Park, who, in 1823, resigned the high offices of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and President of the Board of India Controul, informed me, that he has often conversed with Allen Bathurst the first Earl Bathurst, who conversed with Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England. Richard Cromwell was born one year after the death of James I., and Lord Bathurst deceased fifteen years after the accession of George III. to the crown; the former dying in 1712, aged eighty-six; and the latter in 1775, aged ninety-one.

her to present the petition for me, having taken my precaution against all events. I asked if she was at home, and they answered me that she expected me, and had another duchess with her. I refused to go up stairs as she had company with her, and I was not in a condition to see any other company. I begged to be shewn into a chamber below stairs, and that they would have the goodness to send her grace's maid to me, having something to say to her. I had discharged the chair, lest I might be pursued and watched. When the maid came in I desired her to present my most humble respects to her grace, who they told me had company with her, and to acquaint her, that this was my only reason for not coming up stairs. I also charged her with my sincerest thanks for her kind offer to accompany me when I went to present my petition. I added, that she might spare herself any further trouble, as it was judged more advisable to present one general petition in the name of all; however, that I would never be unmindful of my particular obligation to her grace, and which I should return very soon to acknowledge in person. I then desired one of the servants to call a chair, and I went to the Duchess of Montrose, who had always borne a part in my distresses. When I arrived, she left her company to deny herself, not being desirous to see me under the affliction which she judged me to be in. By mistake, however, I was admitted, so there was no remedy. She came to me, and as my heart was in an exstacy of joy, I expressed it in my countenance. As she entered the room, I ran up to her in the transport of my joy; she appeared to be extremely shocked and frightened, and has since confessed to me, that she apprehended my troubles had thrown me out of myself, till I communicated my happiness to her. She then advised me

to return, for that the king was highly displeased and even enraged at the petition I had presented to him, and had complained of it severely. I sent for another chair, for I always discharged them immediately, that I might not be pursued. Her grace said she would go to Court and see how the news of my lord's escape was received. When the news was brought to the king, he flew into an excessive passion, and said he was betrayed, for it could not have been done without a confederacy. He instantly dispatched two persons to the Tower, to see that the other prisoners were well secured, lest they should follow the example. Some threw the blame on me, some upon another. The duchess was the only one at court that knew it. When I left the duchess I went to a house that Evans had found out for me, and where she promised to acquaint me where my lord was. She got thither some few minutes after me, and told me that when she had seen him secure she went in search of Mr. Mills, who by this time had recovered himself from his astonishment, that he had returned to his house where she found him, and that he had removed my lord from the first place where she had desired him to wait, to the house of a poor woman directly opposite the guard-house. She had but one small room up one pair of stairs, and a very small bed in it. We threw ourselves on the bed, that we might not be heard walking up and down. She left us a bottle of wine and some bread, and Mrs. Mills brought us some more in her pockets the next day. We subsisted on this provision from Thursday till Saturday night, when Mr. Mills came and conducted my lord to the Venetian Ambassador's.* We did not communicate

* Among the ministers from foreign states to England, the magnificence of the Venetian embassy was, at this period, only equalled by that of the French. Venice continued to be for centuries as

the affair to his excellency, but one of his servants concealed him in his own room till Wednesday, on

much "the superb" in all details of state as in the structure of her numberless palaces and churches, her canals, her bridges, and her fortresses. But now—

————— " Venice, lost and won,
Her thirteen hundred years of freedom done,
Sinks like a sea-weed, into whence she rose !" BYRON.

It is evident that the Ambassador's residence was, in this instance, resorted to merely as an unsuspected place of concealment. Neither the persons nor the mansions of Ambassadors appear to have possessed the immunities from arrest and search in England which were awarded to them on the Continent. In 1716, Count Gyllenburg, the Minister to London from Charles XII. of Sweden, was seized, together with all his papers. A similar measure had been previously contemplated against the Duc d'Aumont, Ambassador from Louis XIV., who then resided at Powis-house, the noble owner of that splendid mansion having accompanied the exiled royal family to St. Germain. The Duke, to secure his master's secrets from publicity, instantly set fire to the house, on finding it surrounded by a body of military, and the whole edifice was burned to the ground; an action highly applauded by the French monarch. Powis-house stood in Great Ormonde-street, and covered the extensive space of ground, now occupied by the street denominated "Powis Place," together with the site of some of the houses in Great Ormonde Street, on the west corner of Powis Place towards Queen's Square. Pennant informs us, that this noble structure of the Marquis of Powis was rebuilt at the expence of the King of France. "The front," he says, "was ornamented with fluted pilasters. On the top was a great reservoir, as a guard against fire, and it also served as a fish-pond." But if the privileges claimed by this despotic and selfish monarch for his representative were disregarded in England, he was elsewhere as wantonly tenacious of them as he was base and cruel in his own atrocious outrages against the liberties and lives of the ministers of other sovereigns. It is stated in Lady Morgan's work on Italy, that the assassinations in Rome having increased to a frightful extent, all the Courts of Europe, excepting that of Versailles, acquiesced in the Pope's solicitation to abandon the lucrative right which the houses of their respective Ambassadors possessed, of being asylums for murderers. But Louis XIV. so far from extinguishing the encouragement thus held out for crime, sent a retinue of a thousand men with his Ambassador, the Count de la Vardin, to more effectually

which day the Ambassador's coach and six was to go down to Dover to meet his brother. My lord put on a livery, and went down in the retinue, without the least suspicion, to Dover; where Mr. Michel (which was the name of the Ambassador's servant) hired a small vessel, and immediately set sail for Calais. The passage was so remarkably short that the Captain threw out this reflection, that the wind could not have served better if his passengers had been flying for their lives, little thinking it to be really the case. Mr. Michel might have easily returned, without suspicion of having been concerned in my lord's escape; but my lord seemed inclined to have him with him, which he did, and he has at present a good place under our young master.*

maintain this horrid privilege: a privilege which was equally enjoyed by all the Roman Princes and Cardinals. I quote from memory, as I am drawing up the accompanying remarks upon this letter, at the residence, in Herefordshire, of my valued friend Sir Edwin Scudamore Stanhope, Bart. whose library does not happen to contain Lady Morgan's work. The outrages perpetrated by Louis against the representatives of other Princes were even more execrable than the privileges he asserted for his own. In the developement of the mystery of the man with the Iron Mask, by the Hon. George Agar Ellis, his public perfidy and personal unrelenting revenge are equally detestable. Ercole Matthioli, prime minister of the Duke of Mantua, having received a French bribe, and hesitating to fulfil his traitorous contract, was seized, his face kept constantly concealed in an iron mask; and after suffering the cruelest treatment, by his express command, during thirty-four years of imprisonment, died in the Bastille at Paris, in 1703. These few facts, and the incidents arising from them, become a highly interesting narrative in the hands of Mr. Agar Ellis, whose good taste and extensive historical information are conspicuous throughout, and fully elucidate every dark and doubtful particular respecting an event which has so long furnished food for romantic conjecture.

* Viz. James Francis Edward only surviving son of King James II. by the Princess Mary Beatrix Eleonora d'Este, daughter of Alonzo II. Duke of Modena. He was officially styled the "pretended Prince of Wales" at the period of the revolution. In the year 1715,

This is an exact and as full an account of this affair, and of the persons concerned in it, as I could possibly give you, to the best of my memory, and you may rely upon the truth of it. For my part, I absconded to the house of a very honest man in Drury Lane, where I remained till I was assured of my lord's safe arrival on the continent. I then wrote to the Duchess of Buccleugh (every body thought till then that I was gone off with my lord) to tell her I understood I was suspected of having contrived my lord's escape, as was very natural to suppose; that if I could have been happy enough to have done it, I should be flattered to have the merit of it attributed to me, but that a bare suspicion, without proof, would never be a sufficient ground for my being punished for a supposed offence,

he joined the adherents of his family in Scotland, and was denominated by the Government of that day, the "Pretender," and the "Chevalier de St. George." On the death of his father in 1701, he was immediately acknowledged as King of England by the Sovereigns of France, Spain, and Portugal, and the Ambassadors of the first proclaimed him as King James III. in all the Courts of Europe with whom he was in alliance. He died in 1765, leaving issue, by the Princess Maria Clementina daughter of James eldest son of John Sobieski, King of Poland, two sons, viz.

1st. Charles Edward Stuart, styled by his adherents King Charles III. and Duke of Albany, and by the Government of England, the "young Pretender" and the "Chevalier de St. George." By his wife, the Princess Louisa Maximienne daughter of Gustavus Adolphus Prince of Stolberg Guedern, (who is said to have married 2dly Count Victor Alfieri,) he had no issue, and dying in 1788, was succeeded in his pretensions and titles by his only brother.

2d. Henry Benedict Stuart, styled by his adherents King Henry IX. and Cardinal of York, who died unmarried, and in him wholly terminated the line of King James II. The steps of the British visitor to Rome seldom fail to be arrested in traversing St. Peter's, by the magnificent mausoleum executed by the immortal Canova, to the memory of these two concluding generations of the royal House of Stuart; on which are recorded, as their birth-right, all the titles belonging to them as if really Kings of England.

though it might be a motive sufficient for me to provide a place of security; so I entreated her to procure leave for me to go about my business. So far from granting my request they were resolved to secure me if possible. After several debates, Mr. Solicitor-General,* who was an utter stranger to me, had the humanity to say, that since I shewed such respect to Government as not to appear in public, it would be cruel to make any search after me. Upon which it was decided, that no further search should be made if I remained concealed; but that if I appeared either in England or in Scotland, I should be secured. But this was not sufficient for me, unless I could submit to see my son† exposed to beggary. My lord sent for me up to town in such haste, that I had not time to

* John Fortescue Aland, Esq. was appointed Solicitor-General on the 25th of December, 1715, in which office he was succeeded by Sir William Thompson, on the 6th of February, 1716.

† Lady Nithsdale's only surviving child was John Lord Maxwell, styled sixth Earl of Nithsdale on the death of his father William the fifth Earl at Rome in 1744. He married his first cousin Catharine third daughter of Charles Stewart fourth Earl of Traquair, by Mary daughter of Robert Maxwell fourth Earl of Nithsdale and sister of William the fifth Earl. By this marriage he had an only child, Lady Winifred Maxwell, to whom the barony of Herries of Terregles would have descended, but for the attainder of her grandfather in 1715) married to William Haggerston Constable, Esq. (second son of Sir Carnaby Haggerston, of Haggerston Castle, in the county of Northumberland, Bart) who assumed the name of Constable on inheriting the seat of Everingham in Yorkshire, and other estates belonging to the family of his grandmother Anne Constable, and had issue two sons, viz.

1st. Marmaduke William Constable Maxwell of Everingham, Terregles, and Caerlaverock, who assumed the name of Maxwell on inheriting from his mother Lady Winifred the estates of the house of Nithsdale. He died in 1821, having married Theresa daughter of George Wakeman, of Beckford, county Gloucester, Esq. by whom he had issue five sons and two daughters, viz. William Constable Maxwell, of Everingham, county York; Marmaduke

settle any thing before I left Scotland. I had in my hands all the family papers, and dared trust them to nobody. My house might have been searched without warning, consequently they were far from being secure there. In this distress I had the precaution to bury them in the ground, and nobody but myself and the gardener knew where they were. I did the same with other things of value. The event proved that I had acted prudently, for after my departure they searched the house, and God only knows what might have transpired from those papers. All these circumstances rendered my presence absolutely necessary, otherwise they might have been lost, for though they retained the highest preservation after one very severe winter, for when I took them up they were as dry as if they came from the fire-side, yet they could not possibly have remained so much longer without prejudice. In short, as I had once exposed my life for the safety of the father, I could not do less than hazard it once

Constable Maxwell, of Terregles and Caerlaverock, county Dumfries; Peter Constable Maxwell; Henry Constable Maxwell; and Joseph Constable Maxwell: his two daughters were Mary wife of the Hon. Charles Stourton Langdale fourth son of Charles sixteenth Lord Stourton; and Theresa wife of the Hon. Charles Everard Clifford, second son of Charles seventh Lord Clifford.

2d. William Constable Middleton the second son of William Haggerston Constable and Lady Winifred Maxwell, assumed the name of Middleton on inheriting the seats of Stockeld and Middleton, in Yorkshire, being the estates of the family of his grandmother Elizabeth Middleton. He married Clara Louisa only daughter of William Grace, Esq. second son of Michael Grace, of Gracefield, sister of the late Richard Grace, of Boley, Esq. M.P., and aunt to the present Sir William Grace, Bart. By this marriage he has issue living two sons and one daughter, viz. Peter Middleton, of Stockeld Park, married to Juliana third daughter of Charles sixteenth Lord Stourton; Francis Middleton, married to the daughter and heir of James Taylor, of Co. Lancaster, Esq. and Barbara Clara Middleton.

more for the fortune of the son. I had never travelled on horseback but from York to London, as I told you, but the difficulties did not arise now from the severity of the season, but the fear of being discovered and arrested. To avoid this, I bought three saddle horses, and set off with my dear Evans, and a very trusty servant whom I brought with me out of Scotland. We put up at all the smallest inns on the road that could take in a few horses, and where I thought I was not known, for I was thoroughly known at all the considerable inns on the northern road. Thus I arrived safe at Traquhair,* where I thought myself secure,

* This ancient structure which continues to be still the residence of the noble family of Traquair is situated four miles from the town of Peebles, and twenty-two south of Edinburgh. Lady Mary Maxwell, wife of Charles Stewart, fourth Earl of Traquair, who died in 1741, was the only sister of Lord Nithsdale, their father Robert fourth Earl of Nithsdale, having married Lucy fifth daughter of William Douglas first Marquis and sixteenth Earl of Douglas, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of George Gordon first Marquis of Huntley. Lucy Douglas Countess of Nithsdale, was whole sister to William Douglas created Duke of Hamilton, and to George Douglas created Earl of Dumbarton, and half-sister to Archibald Douglas Earl of Angus, grandfather of the third Marquis and first Duke of Douglas. She was also whole sister to Henrietta, the wife of James Johnson second Earl of Annandale, to Isabella the wife of William Douglas first Duke of Queensbury, and to Jane the wife of James Drummond fourth Earl of Perth, attainted in 1715. William Douglas, abovementioned, (the whole brother of Lady Nithsdale) was, as here stated, a *younger* son of the first Marquis of Douglas, but having married Anne daughter and sole heir of the ducal house of Hamilton, he thereupon assumed her surname, and was created Duke of Hamilton in 1661. From him descended the succeeding Dukes of Hamilton and the Earls of Selkirk and of Orkney, who are, consequently, by *maternal* descent only, of the house of Hamilton. The representative therefore of the illustrious name of Hamilton, in the *paternal* line, is the Marq. of Abercorn; and the following noble branches of this family claim in like manner an affinity with their common ancestor through a direct *male* succession, viz. the Lords Haddington, Boyne, and Belhaven; Admiral Sir Charles Hamilton, of the Mount, a Baronet,

for the Lieutenant of the County being a friend of my lord's, would not permit any search to be made after me without sending me previous notice to abscond. Here I had the assurance to rest myself for two whole days, pretending that I was going to my own house with leave from Government. I sent no notice to my house, that the Magistrates of Dumfries might not make too narrow enquiries about me. So they were ignorant of my arrival in the country till I was at home, where I still feigned to have permission to remain. To carry on the deceit the better, I sent to all my neighbours and invited them to come to my house.* I took up my papers at night, and sent them

of 1776, who has on various occasions in his naval capacity, during the late war, very highly distinguished himself; and General Sir John Hamilton, of Woodbrook, a Baronet of 1815, and K.T.S., whose enthusiastic love for his profession, and practical knowledge of all its parts, have rendered his military career in the Duke of Wellington's Asiatic and European Campaigns, not more honorable to himself than beneficial to his Country.

* The magnificent castles of Caerlaverock and Thrieve belonging to this illustrious family were utterly ruined, after being besieged and taken by the republican army, in 1640, and the house here alluded to is doubtless Terregles, situated in the district of Nithsdale, and distant three miles from the town of Dumfries, and sixty south of Edinburgh. Terregles was a mansion of the Lords Herries, and passed in marriage with Agnes eldest daughter and coheir of William Herries third Lord Herries of Terregles to Sir John Maxwell, a younger son of Robert fourth Lord Maxwell of Caerlaverock. By this marriage the Peerage of Herries, being a Barony in fee, became vested in the house of Maxwell. Their great grandson, John Maxwell seventh Lord Herries of Terregles, succeeded in 1667 to the Earldom of Nithsdale, &c. on the death of his cousin Robert the second Earl. The ancient family of Herries was one of the most powerful of the border Chieftains. Hodham Castle, also in Dumfriesshire, was erected in 1437, by John Lord Herries, who likewise constructed the celebrated watch-tower of Trailtrow, or as it is more popularly denominated, the "Tower of Repentance," which has given rise to many romantic stories.

off to Traquhair. It was a particular stroke of providence that I made the dispatch I did, for they soon suspected me, and by a very favorable accident, one of them was overheard to say to the Magistrates of Dumfries, that the next day they would insist on seeing my leave from Government. This was bruited about, and when I was told of it, I expressed my surprise that they should be so backward in coming to pay their respects; but, said I, "better late than never, be sure to tell them that they shall be welcome whenever they chuse to come." This was after dinner, but I lost no time to put every thing in readiness with all possible secrecy; and the next morning, before day-break, I set off again for London with the same attendants, and as before put up at the smallest inns, and arrived safe once more.

On my arrival, the report was still fresh of my journey into Scotland, in defiance of their prohibition.

A lady informed me, that the king was extremely incensed at the news. That he had issued orders to have me arrested; adding, that I did whatever I pleased in despite of all his designs, and that I had given him more trouble and anxiety than any other woman in Europe. For which reason I kept myself as closely concealed as possible, till the heat of these reports had abated. In the mean while I took the opinion of a very famous lawyer, who was a man of the strictest probity. He advised me to go off as soon as they had ceased searching after me. I followed his advice, and about a fortnight after escaped without any accident whatever. The reason he alleged for his opinion was this, that although in other circumstances, a wife cannot be prosecuted for saving her husband, yet in cases of high-treason, according to the rigour of the law, the head of the wife is responsible for that

of the husband; and as the king was so highly incensed there could be no answering for the consequences, and he therefore entreated me to leave the kingdom. The king's resentment was greatly increased by the petition which I presented, contrary to his express orders. But my lord was very anxious that a petition might be presented, hoping that it would be at least serviceable to me. I was in my own mind convinced that it would be to no purpose, but as I wished to please my lord, I desired him to have it drawn up, and I undertook to make it come to the king's hand, notwithstanding all the precautions he had taken to avoid it. So the first day that I heard the king was to go to the drawing-room, I dressed myself in black, as if I was in mourning. I sent for Mrs. Morgan (the same who accompanied me to the Tower) because as I did not know his Majesty personally, I might have mistaken some other person for him. She stood by me and told me when he was coming. I had also another lady with me, and we three remained in a room between the king's apartments and the drawing-room: so that he was obliged to go through it, and as there were three windows in it, we sat in the middle one, that I might have time enough to meet him before he could pass. I threw myself at his feet, and told him, in French, that I was the unfortunate Countess of Nithsdale, that he might not pretend to be ignorant of my person. But perceiving that he wanted to go off, without receiving my petition, I caught hold of the skirts of his coat, that he might stop and hear me. He endeavoured to escape out of my hands, but I kept such strong hold that he dragged me from the middle of the room to the door of the drawing-room. At last one of the blue-ribbands, who attended his Majesty, took me round the waist, whilst another wrested the coat out of my hands. The

petition, which I had endeavoured to thrust into his pocket, fell down in the scuffle, and I almost fainted through grief and disappointment. One of the gentlemen in waiting took the petition, and as I knew that it ought to have been given to the Lord of the Bedchamber who was then in waiting, I wrote to him, and entreated him to do me the favour to read the petition which I had had the honour to present to his Majesty.

Fortunately for me it happened to be my Lord Dorset,* with whom Mrs. Morgan was very intimate. Accordingly, she went into the drawing-room and presented him a letter, which he received very graciously. He could not read it then, as he was at cards with the Prince, but as soon as the game was over he read it; and behaved, as I afterwards learnt, with the greatest zeal for my interest, and was seconded by the Duke of Montrose, who had seen me in the antichamber and wanted to speak to me, but I made him a sign not to come near me, lest his acquaintance should thwart my

* Lionel Cranfield Sackville seventh Earl and first Duke of Dorset, K.G., died in 1765, having married Elizabeth daughter of Lieutenant-General Colyear, brother of David first Earl of Portmore, whose wife was Catharine Sedley Countess of Dorchester, the mother, by King James II. of Lady Catharine Daruley, married in 1705 to John Sheffield first Duke of Buckingham and Normanby, K.G., and mother of Edmund Sheffield the second and last Duke, on whose death, in 1735, the families of Grace of Courtstown and Grace of Gracefield, became the sole representatives of the line of Sheffield, and *inherited*, as coheirs at law, the several *undivided* estates belonging to the Duke of Bucks, in Sussex, Middlesex, and Yorkshire. The descent of all the branches, and an account of all the collateral alliances of the ducal house of Sheffield, together with many unpublished biographical particulars, are to be found dispersedly in the "Memoirs of the Family of Grace," 1823; in the "Survey of Tullaroan or Grace's Parish," 1819; and in the "Descriptive Sketch of the Grace Mausoleum," 1819; three privately printed works, written by Sheffield Grace, F.S.A., brother of Sir William Grace, Bart.

designs. But it became the topic of their conversation the rest of the evening, and the harshness with which I had been treated soon spread abroad, not much to the honour of the King. Many people reflected that they had themselves presented petitions, and that he had never rejected any even from the most indigent objects. But this behaviour to a person of quality, was a strong instance of brutality. These reflections which circulated about, raised the king to the highest pitch of hatred and indignation against my person, as he has since allowed; for when the ladies, whose husbands had been concerned in this affair, presented their petitions for dower, mine was presented among the rest, but the king said, I was not entitled to the same privilege, and in fact I was excluded; and it is remarkable, that he would never suffer my name to be mentioned. For these reasons every body judged it prudent for me to leave the kingdom; for so long as this hatred of the king subsisted I could not be safe, and, as it was not probable that I could escape falling into his hands, I accordingly went.

This is the full narrative of what you desired, and of all the transactions which passed relative to this affair. Nobody besides yourself could have obtained it from me; but the obligations I owe you, throw me under the necessity of refusing you nothing that is in my power to do. As this is for yourself alone, your indulgence will excuse all the faults which must occur in this long recital. The truth you may however depend upon, attend to that, and overlook all deficiencies. My lord desires you to be assured of his sincere friendship.

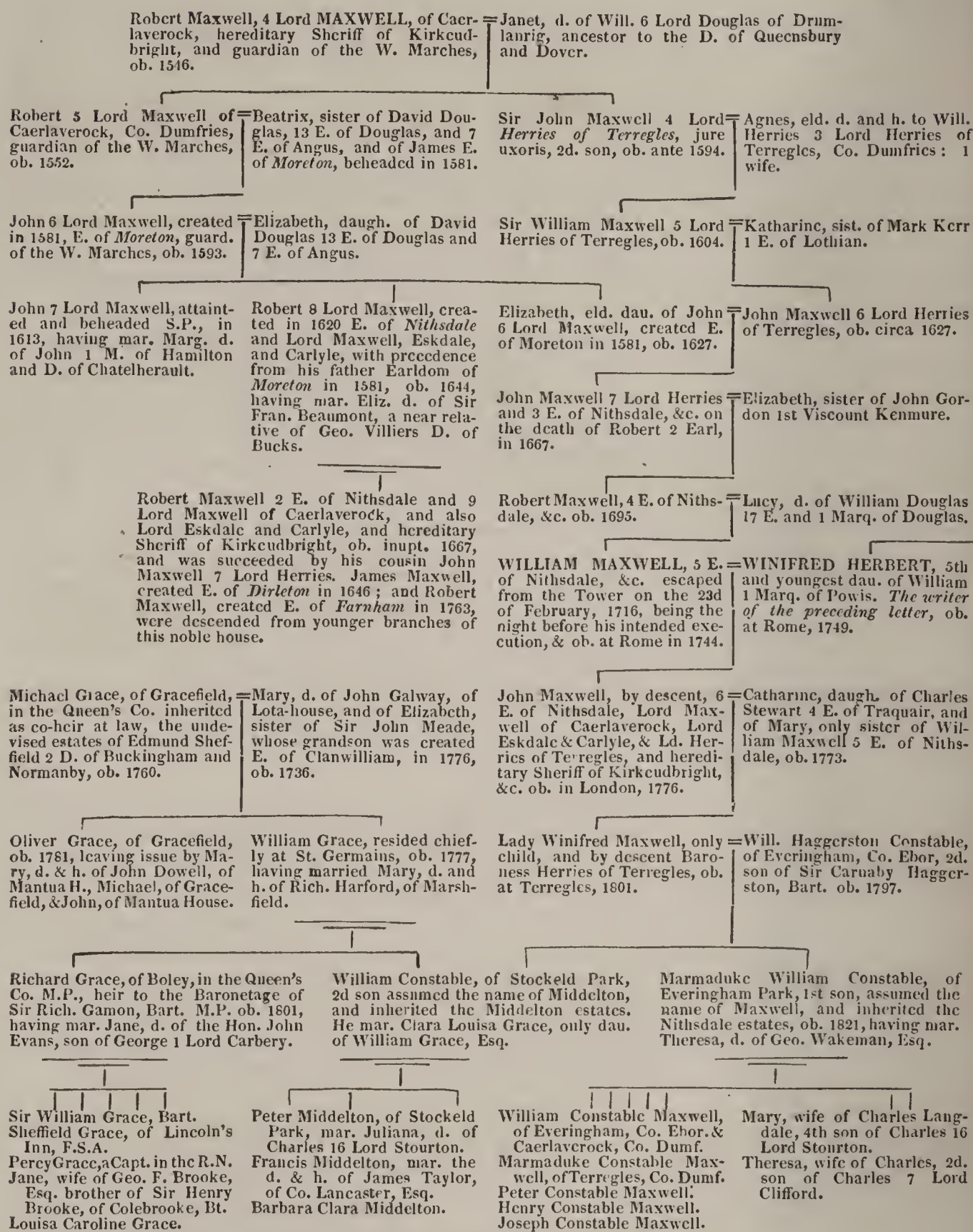
I am, with strongest attachment,

My dear Sister,

Your's, most affectionately,

WINIFRED NITHSDALE.

DESCENT OF WILLIAM MAXWELL FIFTH EARL OF NITHSDALE.



ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE EARLS OF NITHSDALE.

Argent, an Imperial Eagle displayed sable, beaked and membered gules; surmounted by a shield of the 1st., charged with a saltire of the 2d., and thereon a Hedgehog, or: which shield contains the arms of the Lords Herries. *Crest*—On a wreath, a mount and hollybush, and a stag lodged or couchant, all proper. *Supporters*—Two stags of the latter. *Motto*—Reviresco.

DESCENT OF WINIFRED HERBERT COUNTESS OF NITHSDALE.

Sir Richard Herbert, of Ewyas, S. Wales. = Margaret, d. and h. of Sir Rich. Cradock, of Swansea, S.W.

William Herbert, created E. of *Pembroke* in 1551, ob. 1569. = Anne, dau. of Thomas Lord Parr, of Kendall, and sister of Queen Catharine Parr.

Richard Herbert, of Coldbrook, Co. Monm., whose grandson Richard, had two sons, Edward, created Lord *Herbert*, of *Cherbury*, in 1629, and Charles, ancestor to Arthur Herbert, created E. of *Torrington*, in 1689.

Sir Edward Herbert, 2d son of Powis Cas. Co. Montg. ob. 1594. = Margaret, d. and h. of Sir Thomas Stanley, of Stanton, Co. Herts.

Henry Herbert, 2d E. of *Pembroke*, from whom the succeeding Earls of *Pembroke*, *Montgomery*, and *Caernarvon*, are descended.

Sir William Herbert, K.B., 1st son, created 1630, Lord Powis of Powis Cas., ob. 1655. = Eleanor, 3d daugh. of Henry Percy 8 Earl of Northumberland, ob. 1651.

Sir Percy Herbert 2 Lord Powis, created a Baronet in 1622, ob. 1666. = Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Will. Craven, and sister of Will. E. of Craven.

William Herbert 3 Lord Powis, created in 1687 Marq. of Powis, and in 1689 Duke of Powis at St. Germain's, where he ob. 1696. = Elizabeth, sister of Henry Somerset, 1 Duke of Beaufort, ob. at St. Germain's in 1692.

William Herbert, 2d Marquis of Powis, &c. restored to the Marquisate of Powis in 1722. = Mary, dau. of Sir Thomas Preston, of Furness, Co. Lane. Bar. ob. 1724.

LUCY HERBERT, 4th dau. Abbess of the Augustine Nuns, at Bruges, to whom the preceding letter is addressed.

Mary, 1st d., wife of Francis Browne 4 Visc. Montague. Frances, 2 d. wife of Kenneth Mackenzie, 4 E. of Seaforth. Anne, 3 dau., wife of Francis Smith, 2 Visc. Carrington.

Lord Edward Herbert, only brother of the 3 M. of Powis, ob. 1734. = Henrietta, only d. of James I. E. of Waldegrave, K.G., ob. 1753.

William Herbert, 3d Marquis of Powis, ob. cælebs 1747.

Anne, 2d. wife of Henry 6 Lord Arundel of Wardour.

Henry Arthur Herbert, of Dolgeiog and Oakley Park, created E. of Powis in 1748, ob. 1772. = Barbara Herbert, only child and sole heir to her uncle Will. 3 and last Marq. of Powis.

Edward Clive, 2 Lord Clive, created E. of Powis in 1804. = Henrietta Antonia Herbert, only dau. mar. in 1784.

George Edward Herbert, 2 E. of Powis, ob. cælebs 1801.

Edward Clive, Viscount Clive, mar. in 1816, Lucy, 3d dau. of James Graham, 3 Duke of Montrose.

Robert Henry Clive, mar. in 1819, Harriet, d. of Other Hickman Windsor, 5 E. of Plymouth.

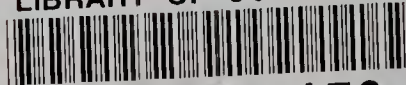
Harriet Antonia, wife of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, of Wynnstay, Co. Denbigh, Bart.

Charlotte Florentia, wife of Hugh Percy, 3 Duke of Northumberland, K.G.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE MARQUISESSES OF POWIS.

Party per pale, azure and gules, three lions rampant, argent. *Crest*—On a wreath a wyvern with wings expanded, vert, its ducal collar and chain or, and in its mouth a sinister hand coup'd at the wrist, gules. *Supporters*—On the dexter side, a panther guardant, argent, spotted of various colours, with fire issuing out of his mouth and ears, proper, and gorged with a ducal coronet, azure. On the sinister, a lion guardant, argent, gorged with a ducal coronet, gules. *Motto*—Ung je serviray.

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